



When Chris Gayle in the kind of form that he was in for Rangpur Riders yesterday, the only thing the opposition can do is look on with their hands on their heads, as (inset) demonstrated by Khulna Titans' captain Mahmudullah Riyad.

PHOTOS:
FIROZ AHMED

WHAT THEY SAID



We all know the Gayle Storm

We all know it as the Gayle Storm. Honestly he batted outstandingly well and we were unable to bowl in the right areas. We know all about his power if he gets set at the wicket and I think Gayle took advantage of that. I won't say we were unlucky as we all know what a big player he is and it's difficult to stop him once he gets set. We were unable to dismiss him early, that's why we lost the match.

Khulna Titans captain **Mahmudullah Riyad** when asked whether he felt unlucky to face the Gayle Storm in the all important game.



He always likes to sleep at his room

Normally he does nothing. As far as I have seen he likes to stay relaxed. He always likes to sleep in his room which I think helps him to be relaxed when he takes to the field. I have been witnessing him for the last 8-9 games and also played with him previously. I have never seen any change in mentality from him. Whenever he is unable to score runs he does not hurry for anything. He is always calm and prepares himself slowly before going onto the field. He is always the same.

Rangpur Riders skipper **Mashrafe Bin Mortaza** over the preparation and attitude of Chris Gayle before and after a game.



I never like to leave it for anyone

All about momentum when you're batting as well, a 170 wicket, the best wicket in Dhaka so far. Pressure was always there. Always important for somebody in the top three to bat deep. I never like to leave it for anyone, we have guys in the shed, but have to take it across the line.

Rangpur Riders West Indies giant **Chris Gayle** after his match-winning unbeaten century against Khulna Titans in the Eliminator.



ধুলো ময়লার দ্বি শেষ!

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MOMENTS

IT'S YOURS... NO! IT'S YOURS!!

There was a huge misunderstanding between Rangpur skipper Mashrafe Bin Mortaza and their English medium pacer Ravi Pooran tried to play a lofted shot off Bopara in the second ball of the 14th over and completely mistimed the shot as the ball flew towards mid-off where Mashrafe ran in from short cover. Bopara also went for the catch and covered the ground pretty well running back while another fielder from long off also rushed in. Eventually Mahsrafe and Bopara looked at each other, expecting the other to take the catch as the ball plonked harmlessly into no man's land, leaving the two in disbelief.

Gayle conserves energy

West Indies' T20 maestro Chris Gayle may be explosive with the bat but when it comes to his fielding skills, it's the opposite. The big man let go a boundary in the last over of the Titans innings when Jofra Archer edged Lasith Malinga past point, and the ball was travelling at a slow pace but Gayle was even slower in chase of the ball and seemed to have no intention of stopping the boundary, which most other fielders would have stopped easily. Gayle probably wanted to conserve energy and knew that those two extra runs will pale into insignificance in front of what was to follow.

Gayle storm sinks Titans

SPORTS REPORTER



The chill in the air and the overcast conditions cannot be felt when the best and most entertaining batsman in T20 cricket starts to punish the bowlers. All the talk surrounding unfavorable pitches fade into the background if that mighty Caribbean gentleman embarks on a leather hunt. That is what happened yesterday in the Eliminator of the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) as Chris Gayle emerged with his best during an unbeaten 51-ball 126 'Caribbean Typhoon' at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur to sink the Titans. The end result was Rangpur Riders will play the Qualifier-2 against Comilla Victorians tomorrow, having chased down Khulna Titans' 167 with 28 balls to spare.

Many may have anticipated another close match when a late surge from Ariful Haque (29), Nicholas Pooran

(28) and Carlos Brathwaite (25) took the Titans to 167 for six, but ultimately the total appeared wholly inadequate as the special knock from Gayle brought an end to Khulna's campaign.

One can say that scores of 17, 50, 51, 16, 33, 5, 0 and 38 was not a bad series of innings for a batsman in T20 cricket but fans expected more than the average from a batsman like Gayle, who finally fulfilled his immense promise yesterday with the first hundred of BPL's fifth season.

The bowling, however, was pedestrian but the question remains about whether the bowlers forgot how to bowl after receiving such nonchalant yet murderous treatment. All of Gayle's 14 sixes were highlights of the gigantic innings.

Abu Jayed swallowed two sixes for overpitched and full deliveries; Titans skipper Mahmudullah Riyad conceded three from overpitched, straight, and short-length deliveries; Jofra Archer was hit for one off the full and straight; Mohammad Irfan was punished for

three maximums off deliveries short and outside off stumps, and one full ball; Two slower balls and middle and leg from Craig Brathwaite disappeared into the stands; Afif Hossain cursed himself for bowling one short around off and finally, Nazmul Hossain's two short balls met an altogether expected fate.

The left-hander had a very modest start to his innings as he started with a single off the first ball but immediately indicated in the third ball of the first over what kind of nightmare was in store for the Titans bowlers as he let his hands go through with the lofted drive against Jayed for a big one over long-off.

Then it was a familiar destruction story as Gayle finished the job with consecutive sixes in the first two balls of the 16th over to remain not out on 126 and enhance his handsome T20 records.

For the fans, the records that he created hardly mattered; it was the entertainment the dashing left-hander treated them to that will remain in their hearts.

SCOREBOARD

KHULNA V RANGPUR

HUNLA TITANS	R/B	4s/6s
azmul (H) c & b Shohag	15/16	3/0
linger b Bopara	21/26	1/0
ff b Malinga	11/9	1/1
ahmudullah c Shohag		
azmul (I)	20/6	2/2
irful c & b Rubel	29/30	3/0
ooran lbw Malinga	28/22	2/1
rathwaite not out	25/9	3/1
chner not out	6/3	1/0
Extras: (lb-4, nb-1, w-7)	12	
Total: (For 6 wks in 20 overs)	167	
Did not bat: Mohammad Irfan, Abu Ayed, Tanvir Islam.		
All wickets of: 1-21, 2-34, 3-56, 4-82, 5- 122, 6-155.		

RANGPUR RIDERS

Mashrafe	4	0	23	0
Shohag	3	0	24	1
SL Malinga	4	0	49	2
Nazmul (I)	3	0	19	1
Rubel	4	0	33	1
Bopara	2	0	15	1
RANGPUR RIDERS			R/B	4s/6s
Gayle not out			126/51	6/14
Shohag b Archer			1/4	0/0
McCullum c Ariful b Archer			0/2	0/0
Mithun not out			30/36	3/0
Extras: (nb-1, w-13)			14	
Total: (For 2 wks in 15.2 overs)			171	

Result: Rangpur won by 8 wickets.
Player-of-the-match: Chris Gayle.

Hathurusingha arriving today

Former Tigers' coach takes SL job

AGENCIES, Colombo



Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) made it official yesterday that Chandika Hathurusingha had become their new head coach with a view to ending the island nation's crisis in international cricket.

On the other hand Jalal Yunus, director of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB), informed last night that the former Bangladesh coach would arrive in Dhaka today to settle all contractual obligations and explain the reasons behind his resignation.

The Sri Lankan resigned in October as Bangladesh coach after guiding the national team through their most successful period in his three years in charge, masterminding Test wins over England and Australia.

He takes over a side that was hammered in Tests by India in home and away series this year and has played poorly in one-day games.

SLC said Hathurusingha, 49, will take over the national side from December 20. That means he will take charge of the team for the T20 games that end their current tour in India.

The Sri Lanka post has been vacant since South African Graham Ford quit in June. Nic Pothas has been the interim coach.

Under Hathurusingha, Bangladesh made rapid strides in world cricket, reaching the semifinals of the Champions Trophy tournament in England this year. He was only criticised after Bangladesh's recent tour of South Africa, where the team failed to register a single win.

His contract with the BCB was supposed to run until the 2019 World Cup and reportedly made him one of the highest-paid cricket coaches, on \$40,000 a month.

Hathurusingha, a batsman, played 26 Tests and 35 one-day internationals for Sri Lanka.



SCOREBOARD

DHAKA V COMILLA

DHAKA DYNAMITES	R/B	4s/6s
Mahedi c Saifuddin b Hasan	6/6	1/0
Lewis b Shoaib	47/32	6/3
Denly run out (Samuels)	32/25	2/1
Pollard c Liton b Bravo	31/18	1/3
Shakib c Liton b Bravo	9/8	0/1
Afridi c Tamim b Hasan	30/19	0/4
Mosaddek c Buttler b Hasan	3/5	0/0
Narine not out	9/4	1/0
Jahurul not out	3/3	0/0
Extras: (b-4, lb-8, w-9)	21	
Total: (For 7 wks in 20 overs)	191	
Did not bat: Abu Hider, Mohammad Saddam.		
Fall of wickets: 1-11, 2-80, 3-123, 4-138, 5-144, 6-179, 7-179.		

COMILLA VICTORIANS

Mahedi	3	0	38	0
Hasan	4	0	16	3
Saifuddin	3	0	30	0
Malik	4	0	28	1
Bravo	4	0	45	2
Al-Amin	2	0	22	0
COMILLA VICTORIANS				
Tamim st Jahurul b Afridi	31/28	3/1	4s/6s	
Liton c & b Mosaddek	0/2	0/0		
Buttler b Shakib	5/7	1/0		
Imrul b Mosaddek	9/6	0/1		
Samuels c Jahurul b Hider	6/11	0/0		
Malik c Hider b Shakib	7/10	1/0		
Bravo lbw Afridi	0/4	0/0		

Result: Dhaka won by 95 runs.

Player-of-the-match: Shahid Afridi.

Dynamites romp into final

SPORTS REPORTER



A clinical Dhaka Dynamites outplayed Comilla Victorians to clinch a comprehensive 95-run win yesterday in the first Qualifier at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium to reach a second consecutive Bangladesh Premier League final.

Comilla surrendered helplessly and were bundled for just 96 in chase of a 192-run target.

The Victorians will however get a second chance when they take on Rangpur Riders in the second Qualifier on Sunday.

Skipper Tamim Iqbal was Comilla's only hope, but the left-hander was stumped for 31 after coming down the track against Shahid Afridi. Hasan Ali

WHACK-OMETER

TOTAL 6s HIT	492	TOTAL 4s HIT	965
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Most 6s hit by a player:
26, Evin Lewis, Dhaka Dynamites, and Chris Gayle, Rangpur Riders

Most 4s hit by a player:
39, Tamim Iqbal, Comilla Victorians

(18) and Mahedi Hasan (15 not out) were the only other Comilla batsmen to reach double figures.

It was a day for the two T20 specialists to showcase their talents and after Chris Gayle had a go in the first match, Shahid Afridi shone in the second. He



Shahid Afridi put in an all-round performance, first scoring a 19-ball 30 before taking three wickets for 16 as Dhaka Dynamites eased into the final of the BPL with a 95-run victory against Comilla Victorians in Qualifier 1 in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

scored a 19-ball 30 with four sixes to give Dhaka's innings a late boost, before returning with the ball and claiming three wickets. Shakib Al Hasan and Mosaddek Hossain also chipped in with two wickets each.

Earlier Dhaka rode on a collective

approach from the batsman to post a challenging 191 for 7 in their allotted overs after skipper Shakib Al Hasan opted to bat.

In-form West Indian Evin Lewis continued to attack and took 17 runs from off-spinner Mahedi Hasan the over after his partner Mehedi Maruf departed cheaply. Lewis, who was joined by Joe Denly, kept the run-rate close to 10 as Dhaka eyed the 200 mark.

The pair added a quick-fire 69 runs for the second wicket before left-hander Lewis was bowled trying to sweep Shoiab Malik after scoring a team high 47 off 32, which include three sixes and six fours.

Kieron Pollard then joined the party and struck a beautiful straight six off DJ Bravo as Dhaka looked set to launch. The big hitter went on to hit two more sixes against pacer Al Amin before Bravo removed his countryman for an 18-ball 31.

Comilla managed to make inroads after Denly was run out by a direct hit from Marlon Samuels after scoring a 25-ball 32 and Shakib (9) soon followed, being dismissed in soft fashion to give Bravo his second wicket of the game.

'Boom Boom' Afridi then took charge and smashed four sixes during his 19-ball cameo before being dismissed by Hasan Ali, who scalped Mosaddek Hossain off the very next ball. Dhaka though, still added 47 runs in the last five overs.

The Victorians will surely be disappointed with their bowling performance as they gave away 21 extras, which certainly took the momentum away from them on the field.